THE TACOMA NORTHWEST FACTS

FROM THE VOICE OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

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No Hope For Tookie: Crip Co-Founder Executed By State of California

Stanley Tookie Williams maintained his innocence right up until his death, even when an admission of guilt may have spared him execution.

Even after the courts and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger rejected a flurry of Williams' last-ditch appeals before his execution early Tuesday, his supporters vowed to prove his innocence.

Williams, the Crips gang co-founder whose case stirred a national debate about capital punishment versus the possibility of redemption, was executed Tuesday morning for killing four people in 1979. Williams, 51, died at 12:35 a.m. Officials at San Quentin State Prison seemed to have trouble injecting the lethal mixture into his muscular arm. As they struggled to find a vein, Williams looked up repeatedly and appeared frustrated, shaking his head at supporters and other witnesses. You doing that right?" it sounded as if he asked one of the men with a needle.

After he was declared dead, his supporters shouted in unison: "The state of California just killed an innocent man," as they walked out of the chamber.

Lora Owens, stepmother of one of the four people Williams was convicted of killing witnessed the execution. "I believe it was a just punishment long overdue," she told ABC's "Good Morning America." Williams' case became one of the nation's biggest death-row cause celebres in decades, with Hollywood stars and capital punishment foes arguing that Williams' sentence should be commuted to life in prison because he had made amends by writing children's books about the dangers of gangs and violence.His execution also drew fierce criticism in Europe, where politicians in Schwarzenegger's native Austria called for his name to be removed from a sports stadium in his hometown.

"Schwarzenegger has a lot of muscles, but apparently not much heart," said Julien Dray, spokesman for the Socialist Party in France, where the death penalty was abolished in 1981. Williams became the 12th person executed in California since lawmakers reinstated the death penalty in 1977. In the days leading up to the execution, state and federal courts refused to reopen his case. Monday, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger denied Williams' request for clemency, suggesting that his supposed change of heart was not genuine because he had not shown any real remorse for the killings committed by the Crips.

"Is Williams' redemption complete and sincere, or is it just a hollow promise?" Schwarzenegger wrote. "Without an apology and atonement for these senseless and brutal killings, there can be no redemption." Schwarzenegger said the evidence of Williams' guilt was "strong and compelling." Witnesses at Williams' trial said he boasted about the killings, saying: "You should have heard the way he sounded when I shot him." Williams was condemned in 1981 for gunning down convenience store clerk Albert Owens, 26, at a 7-Eleven in Whittier and killing Yen-I Yang, 76, Tsai-Shai Chen Yang, 63, and the couple's daughter Yu-Chin Yang Lin, 43, at the Los Angeles motel they owned. Williams claimed he was innocent.

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Northwest Author Releases Newest Book *Living In The Kingdom of God*

Dr. Kathy L. Shorter,
Pacific Christian Center Church

Dr. Kathy L. Shorter, Co – Founder of Pacific Christian Center Church announced the release of her newest book entitled "Living In The Kingdom of God". Kathy Shorter's book is a complete step by step guide for Christians new and old on how to live in the *KINGDOM OF GOD*. Kathy outlines how to become an overcomer and not be defeated in any area of life, she also lists five things to do when faced with temptations, trials and tests. Throughout the book she gives practical ways to understand that Christians are in a new place – the Kingdom of God.

Continued on page 3

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Elder Ronelle J. McGraw II, Pastor
Praise Chapel C.O.G.I.C.

The greater Seattle, Tacoma, Puyallup and surrounding communities are invited to share in the dawn of a new day. Rejoice with us as we embark on the fulfillment of vision under the leadership of Superintendent Ronelle J. McGraw's son and protégé in the gospel, Elder Ronelle J. McGraw II.

Praise Chapel C.O.G.I.C. and the Washington State Jurisdiction of the Churches of God in Christ cordially invite you to join us in celebrating the installation of Elder Ronelle J. McGraw II to the office of Pastor of Praise Chapel C.O.G.I.C. The Washington State Jurisdictional Prelate, the Honorable Bishop T. L. Westbrook, will serve as the chief celebrant, on Sunday, December 18, 2005 at 3:30pm. 519 3rd Street in Puyallup, Washington.

For additional information, please contact Renee T. Ellis 206-850-2378.

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Tacoma Briefs.....

Joy DeGruy Leary, Ph.D

International Human Rights Day, was celebrated on Thursday December 8th in Seattle, members from Tacoma Human Rights and Human Services Department and Human Rights Commission were in Attendance. The keynote Speaker was the internationally renowned author, Lecturer, and Consultant, Joy DeGruy Leary, Ph.D., who gave excellent insights to some myths and truths. Dr. Leary encourages African Americans to view their attitudes, assumptions and behaviors through the lens of history.With this understanding we can explore the role our history has played in the evolution of our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors, both negativeand positive. This exploration will help lay the foundation necessary to insure our well-being and the sustained health of future generations.

Dr. Joy DeGruy Leary is an Assistant Professor of Social Work at Portland State University. Her book, "Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome", is worth reading. The Tacoma Branch NAACP, held their Holiday Social, on Monday, December 12th. There was a brief Business Meeting, followed by the awarding of Raffle prizes, and Door Prizes. A delicious Buffet dinner was was served, and time for socializing. If you are not a member now, you may want to consider joining, your community needs you! Regular Meetings are held on

the 4th Monday of the Month, 6:30 pm at the E. S. Brazill Multi-Purpose Building, 1211 South I Street, Tacoma. There's still time to purchase tickets for the "Singing Christmas Tree". Final performances will be, Thursday and Friday evening , Two performances on Saturday and Sunday. For additional information call (253) 756-5302.

Thought for the Week.....

Our children are our greatest asset; Teach them well, Love them always.
Remember, its' the little things that count!

No Hope For Tookie: Crip Co-Founder Executed By State of California

Continued from page 1

Stanley Tookie Williams 51, died at 12:35 a.m. Officials at San Quentin State Prison

Williams was led into the death chamber at midnight, shackled and handcuffed. He declined to give a formal final statement. He seemed frustrated by the length of time it took officials to insert the intravenous lines in his arms. He repeatedly looked up, shaking his head at supporters, reporters and other witnesses whom officials did not identify. In all, it took nearly a half-hour to prepare Williams for execution. It took much less time to die; he appeared to stop breathing just moments after a prison official read the death warrant and said, "The execution shall now proceed." Williams was described as "complacent, quiet and thoughtful," by Corrections Department spokeswoman Terry Thornton in the hours before the execution. He declined to have a last meal as he waited in the holding cell, drinking milk instead. Prison officials said he spent his last hours reading mail, watching television and visiting with his lawyers and friends.

After watching her longtime friend die, Barbara Becnel told the crowd of hundreds gathered outside prison gates that she would prove Williams' innocence and that Schwarzenegger was a "cold-blooded murderer." She said Williams "was brave and strong and he was everything we believed him to be." Singer Joan Baez, M A S H actor Mike Farrell and the Rev. Jesse Jackson were among the celebrities who protested the execution. "Tonight is planned, efficient, calculated, antiseptic, cold-blooded murder and I think everyone who is here is here to try to enlist the morality and soul of this country," said Baez, who sang "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" on a small plywood stage set up just outside the gates. A contingent of 40 people who had walked the approximately 25 miles from San Francisco held signs calling for an end to "state-sponsored murder." But others, including Debbie Lynch, 52, of Milpitas, said they wanted to honor the victims.

"If he admitted to it, the governor might have had a reason to spare his life," Lynch said.

Among the celebrities who took up Williams' cause were Jamie Foxx, who played the gang leader in a cable movie about Williams; rapper Snoop Dogg, himself a former Crip; Sister Helen Prejean, the nun depicted in "Dead Man Walking"; and Bianca Jagger. During Williams' 24 years on death row, a Swiss legislator, college professors and others nominated him for the Nobel Prizes in peace and literature. Williams founded the Crips gang with a friend in 1971 and managed stay out of trouble for years despite his claims that he was a drug-fueled thug who robbed, beat and shot at people. Authorities say the gang is responsible for hundreds of deaths, many of them in battles with the rival Bloods for turf and control of the drug trade. Whatever luck Williams found on the streets avoiding the law ended in 1979 after four people were killed in a pair of armed robberies that were connected to him and his pump-action shotgun. Williams never wavered from his claim of innocence and said he refused to confess to crimes he did not commit, even if doing so would save his life. He said he redeemed himself while in prison and apologized for starting the Crips.

"There is no part of me that existed then that exists now," Williams said recently during several hours of interviews with The Associated Press. He said that while he wanted to live and continue his work with children, he was prepared to die.

"I haven't had a lot of joy in my life. But in here," he says, pointing to his heart, "I'm happy. I am peaceful in here. I am joyful in here."

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Time: 9 AM – 2 PM

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Friday, December 16, 8 PM

Rodney Raccoon "Superstar"!

(In His First Holiday Concert & Play)

Live in his very first holiday concert and play Rodney Raccoon "Superstar"! December 16th 6pm at Stewart Middle School in Tacoma Rodney Raccoon will appear live onstage performing songs from his new album "Elementary Hip-Hop" which is an educational album teaching youth educational songs in English & Spanish. To go along with this live performance Rodney will also be acting in his very first play!

Come share in Rodney's excitement as he experiences his very first Christmas! Be apart of this festive event as the children show Rodney what Christmas is all about.

"I never had a Christmas" Rodney explains to one of the children in the play. Each child in the audience will have an opportunity to help us surprise Rodney Raccoon by creating their own Christmas card which will be presented to him towards the end of the play.

Who is Rodney Raccoon? Rodney Raccoon is a new hip-hop children's character that teaches kids educational songs in English and Spanish to fun and cool hip-hop music. His new album features thirteen songs that will not only have children singing along and dancing but learning at the same time!

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To learn more about Rodney Raccoon visit his website at www.rodneyraccoon.com or call WayOut Kids @ 253-627-1899 or Email: jdee@rodneyraccoon.com

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Keep the Joy until the end .....

In just a few weeks we'll be at that very reflective moment when we'll consider all the things this year that we went through, that happened to us and from which we've grown. At that same moment we may find ourselves overwhelmed with the expectations and demands of a new year; you know, closeouts – tax document preparation – required festivities and events – travel or hosting travelers –new classes/tuition - pulling out items to box up as charitable donations, etc. Some may take vacation time or decide to work through the holy days with a goal of tying up some loose ends. Some of you may have figured out how to keep Christ in Christmas without feeling fiscally depleted by December 31st or you may be charged with the cathartic feelings that a great week of Kwanzaa celebrations can create. Invariably, we all know of a situation which occurred during these days in years' past that can bring a sense of sadness at the recall. Hopefully, we'll remember, but not find ourselves in despair from those thoughts. Whatever and wherever you find yourself focusing as another year – this year – these days end, I pray you are quickly and easily saturated with a rushing exuberance of joy and gladness. I think it not accidental that the aggregation which appointed themselves "observance day decision-makers" came together to claim the last week of the year as THE time to celebrate Jesus' birth. In fact, it seems absolutely appropriate that the world (no matter how commercial it's become) would have to stop at the 357th day of the year and consider the precious innocence of our Lord in His infancy. That became and remains absolutely brilliant! All the things that would have and could have crossed our minds at a year's end review get usurped by the story of Christ the King as a homeless, yet cherished baby. Even if a person hasn't embraced the free salvation His life brought, they still automatically get introduced to the joy of His coming. So the fuss about saying "Merry Christmas" versus "Happy Holidays" becomes a moot point. The days are clearly set aside because of Jesus' birth and the undeniable tribute paid to him through the closure of banks, government offices, Wall Street, corporations, malls and the list goes on. Only the *necessities* of life remain available or open – and even that seems appropriate simply because He is the *sustainer* of life. And with that, come what may, we ought to find and keep our joy. He came that we might have life and that more abundantly. When you claim Him, acknowledge Him, seek Him, bless Him and know Him in the pardon of your sins....you can have joy at any moment. And if you serve, trust and obey Him....your joy will result in rejoice for life. Let the Joy of Jesus move you from this day forth. It is strong enough to see you through.

May peace be your Journey
Min. Judy R. Neal tacomagospel@yahoo.com - Habakkuk 2:2-4

Northwest Author Releases Newest Book Living In The Kingdom of God

Continued from page 1

Dr. Kathy L. Shorter,

Kathy Shorter is also the author of several other titles including: "Guard Your Heart", "Coming Out of Egypt", "Heaven Yes! Hell No!" and "Desperate Dieters". Kathy Shorter is also an ordained minister of the Gospel and serves in the mininstry with her husband in the area of counseling and administration. Kathy Shorter along with her husband Pastor Donald Shorter hosts a weekly television program *"Real Life In The Word" on, The Word Network (the rapidly growing worldwide Urban Christian Television network)*. **Real Life In The Word** is seen each Thursday at 9:00pm Pacific Time on Comcast Cable locally as well as on Direct TV as well as several other satellite networks worldwide. Drs. Donald and Kathy Shorter are also regular hosts on the Trinity Broadcasting Network.

Copies of Living in the Kingdom of God may also be purchased on line at their website at www.pacificchristiancenter.org or at the Pacific Christian Center Church bookstore at 3211 – 112th Street Tacoma, WA. Sunday church service times at their Tacoma location are at 11:00am and 6:30pm. (Kathy Shorter regularly ministers the Word of God at the 6:30pm service at Pacific Christain Center.)

For more information or product purchases of other materials by Kathy L. Shorter, visit their website at www.pacificchristiancenter.org or call (253) 536-0801.

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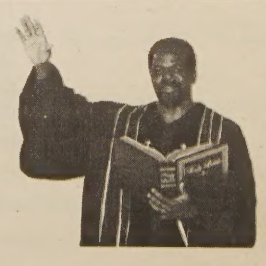

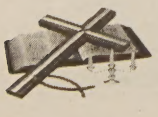

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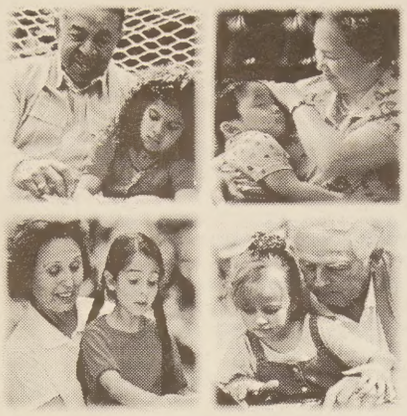

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CMS CDC

More Black Families Home Schooling

Denise Armstrong decided to home school her daughter and two sons because she thought she could do a better job of instilling her values in her children than a public school could. And while she once found herself the lone black parent at home-education gatherings that usually were dominated by white Christian evangelicals, she's noticed more black parents joining the ranks.

"I've been delighted to be running into people in the African-American home-schooling community," Armstrong said.

Home-school advocates say the apparent increase in black families opting to educate their children at home reflects a wider desire among families of all races to guide their children's moral upbringing, along with growing concerns about issues such as sub-par school conditions and preserving cultural heritage."About 10 years ago, we started seeing more and more black families showing up at conferences and it's been steadily increasing since then," said Michael Smith, president of the Home School Legal Defense Association, a national advocacy group.

Nationwide, about 1.1 million children were home schooled in 2003, or 2.2 percent of the school-age population. That was up from about 850,000, or 1.7 percent, in 1999, according to the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics. A racial breakdown of home-schooled students isn't yet available, the center said.

However, the Home School Legal Defense Association says the percentage of black home-schooling families has increased, though hard numbers weren't available.

The numbers are still very low because most black families lack the time or economic resources to devote to home schooling, said Michael Apple, an education professor at the University of Wisconsin who tracks home schooling. He said much of the increase is seen in cities with histories of racial tensions and where black people feel alienated and marginalized.

Some families decide to do it because public schools don't adequately teach African-American history and culture, some want to protect their children from school violence, "and for some, it's all of this and religion," Apple said.

Armstrong said she wants her children - ages 12, 10 and 7 - to have a "moral Judeo-Christian foundation" that public schools can't provide.

"I felt that my husband and I would be able to give more of a tutorial, individual learning situation than a teacher trying to address 40 kids at one time," said Armstrong, who lives in the Richmond area.

She said she also was concerned that schools wrongly label some black boys as learning-disabled while white children with similar behavior are not.

To help guide black home-schooling families, Joyce and Eric Burges started the National Black Home Educators Resource Association in 2000. She said many families were dissatisfied with their public schools but weren't aware that home schooling was legal.

Joyce Burges, of the Baton Rouge, La., area, says she and other black home schoolers have been likened to traitors by people who think they've turned their backs on the struggle to gain equal access to public education. But she feels that when schools don't teach children to read, or fail to provide a safe place to learn, children should come first.

"You do what you have to do that your children get an excellent education," she said. "Don't leave it up to the system."

Apple, the Wisconsin professor, said improving public education for the greatest number of students depends on mass mobilization by concerned parents, but he raises a cautionary note.

"They're trying as hard as they possibly can to protect their children, and for that they must be applauded," Apple said. "But in the long run, protecting their own children may even lead to worse conditions for the vast majority of students who stay in public schools, and that's a horrible dilemma."

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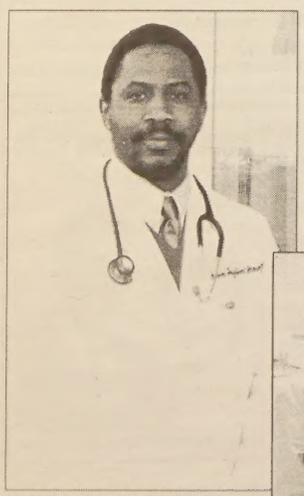

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This Program Stops Crime in the African-American Community - So Why No Media Attention?

Parents meeting to request having transformational self esteem training at their school.

The Institute for Self Esteem & Evaluation (ISEE), Inc., a radical transformational self esteem program for the African-American community, does what parents, teachers, community leaders, and even the police has not been successful in doing, stop crime.

Why hasn't this program been visible as of late? One community leader goes off the record to state and proclaims, "There is money in crime. And the government does not want crime to be eradicated, so programs that are successful like this one does not get the media attention that it so well deserves." Countless youth letters continue to pour in as testimony to ISEE, Inc's very effective program. Here is an example of one heart felt student's testimony. This letter reads:

Dear Mr. Penn,

First I would like to start off by saying you have really changed my life. When I entered your classroom, I had been through and experienced many things. But you have taught me and have helped me to bring myself a long way. You have taught me how to say "I" and think about myself first and always.

If I hadn't taken the time to go through your class, I don't know where I would be. You taught us a lot about our past and gave us a good idea about our future. You taught me about weight control; and at first I felt offended about it but then I cam to realize that it doesn't matter what everyone else thinks, this is about and to help me. You have made me come to realize that I am an important person and how to always hold my head up.

So in closing, I would like to say thank you, and I don't know how many times I can say thank you.

But again, Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.

Sincerely,

Adelle

Letters such as these continue to pour in for the ISEE, Inc. organization. This organization has garnered support not only from African-American teenagers, but from school districts, from mayors, from government officials.

Why this program hasn't gained the media attention, is what continues to be the underlying rumble in the African-American community.

Mr. Penn, the executive director of this powerful organization describes this program, "At the root of ISEE is an unreasonable idea to eliminate crime in urban America. Our unreasonable ideas are usually met with rejection, disbelief and resistance, initially. But after the program is implemented, the teenagers, the schools, the local government officials are really in total awe of how effective we are."

Mr. Penn continues, "We will not allow the silence from the media to stop us from making the changes in urban America that need to be made."

The Institute for Self Esteem & Evaluation (ISEE), Inc. (www.iseeinc.org) located in Bowie, Maryland is a self-awareness institution, teaching urban students academic assertiveness, self-confidence, self-respect, self-love, self-motivation and self-discipline skills which helps to eliminate crime in urban America.

ISEE, Inc. is a recognized 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation by the Internal Revenue Service, Tax ID 52-1871813.

For more information please visit:
www.iseeinc.org

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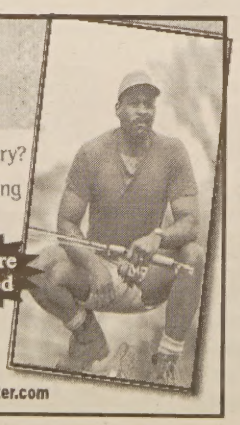

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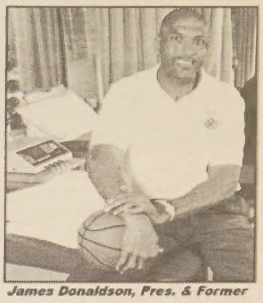

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Early Lessons In Healthy Living

America's waistlines, particularly those of African Americans, are expanding at an alarming rate and it's not just adults who are contributing to the extra inches.

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, the percentage of overweight youth has more than tripled since 1980. This means that nearly nine million children and teens (ages 6 to 19) are at higher risk for developing a number of health complications, including high blood pressure and heart disease.

Fortunately, the federal government is taking action against this national epidemic and has recently introduced legislation in a majority of states mandating time for recess and physical education, as well as nutrition education, particularly in elementary schools.

Teaching healthy behaviors to young children is an effective strategy for promoting healthy lives for the future. Check out the following tips from Healthy Steps for Healthy Lives, Nestlé USA's in-school nutrition curriculum for preschoolers and kindergarteners, and establish a lifetime of healthy living for your kids.

• Reward with family fun. Instead of offering food as an incentive for good behavior, reward your child with a special activity, such as a visit to the local zoo or neighborhood playground.

• Avoid "good vs. bad" talk. To reinforce balance, variety and moderation, teach kids to think of foods as "everyday" and "sometimes" foods. Everyday foods are foods such as grains, vegetables and fruit, while sometimes foods include treats like cookies and chips.

• Teach their taste buds. Encourage tiny tastes of at least one new food item, such as broccoli or brown rice, per week. Although it may take up to eight tries before children accept the new food, this process exposes their taste buds to different flavors, making them more likely to continue healthy eating patterns as they grow older.

• Turn the TV off. It's easy to let the television occupy your kids while you're busy with other things, but try to limit their television time by setting a viewing schedule of only a couple of their favorite shows.

• Practice what you preach. According to a survey conducted by the American Dietetic Association, kids rank parents as their top role models. So be sure to incorporate healthy eating and exercising habits in your own life.

For other healthy living suggestions, visit VeryBestKids.com. The site contains a variety of kid-friendly activities and recipes that will keep the entire family moving toward a healthier lifestyle.

Physical activity and good nutrition are the source of healthy living.

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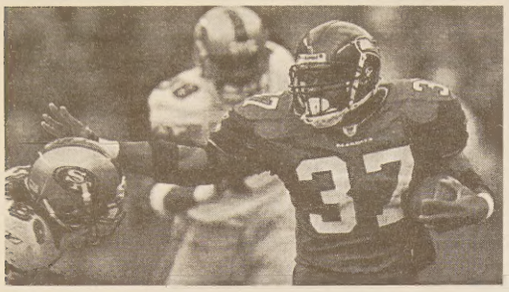
Expectation:



The word Expectation is having some profound meaning in the Seattle Sporting scene. For the three area major sports teams, the word ringing thru likes some church bell on yes Christmas Eve. For the 11-2 Seattle Seahawks, expectation means continue to win games and find your self hosting the NFC Championship game and move on , yes to the Superbowl. Having won the NFC's West Division for a consecutive year translates into high expectations that message is clear. Gone are the days of "hey lets hope to get in the playoffs and see what happens", this team is expected to win, win and win.

"If you were to ask a player I am sure he would not tell you about how I handled yesterday's halftime," Coach Holmgren said after last Sundays 41 to 3 win over the San Francisco 49ers "You might be surprised. I think I know the team, I know some of the buttons that get people going. I can't let down for a second. Hopefully I do the right thing. But we are so close to something pretty good. Heck, we have come this far, I am not going to change. I am going to keep pushing and pushing and pushing, and understand why I am doing it and I love you all. But I am going to keep pushing. They are pretty good that way; they listen." No doubt the Seahawks have been listening to their Head Coach. The team is on a franchise best nine game win streak. Expectationscontinue to rise for the team, a Seattle win at Tennessee on Sunday coupled with a Chicago Bears loss would give Seattle Home field advantage throught the playoffs.

Expectations to win in this City are not just for the gridiron teams. The tenth ranked University of Washington mens' basketball team are doing their part to raise expectations . The team is 8-0 ,their best start in 36 years. The Huskies have the nations longest home come win streak and have impressive wins over the 11th ranked Gonzaga Bulldogs and New Mexico State (81 to 71) in last weekends John Wooden Classic. While that might sound impressive remember that washington finished 29-6 overall and 14-4 in the Pac-10 last season and won the conference tournament before being eliminated by Louisville in the second round of the NCAA tournament. So expectations for this team are high and will continue to rise as the team continues it's quest to return to the NCAA 's March Madness tournament. If expectations are clear for the Seahawks and the Huskies men basketball team, the opposite can be said of the Seattle Sonics. Some might even argue that the Key Arena bunch has no idea what the meaning of the word expectation is The Sonics are 9-10 overall and have lost two straight games at home after winning three straight games and losing three games in a row before that. The point here is that this team is let me introduce another word, inconsistent.

Filthy

Since last year I've been telling people about Curtis High School's 5'8" point guard Isaiah Thomas. I know it's hard to believe me when I say things like he's unstoppable, or he has unlimited range on his jumper, or he can score 30 points a game with ease. I've been playing basketball for over twenty years and I've seen and played against some real good balers from the West to the East coast so, believe me when I tell you I know my hoop and out of all the High School players I've seen play, Isaiah Thomas is the best.

Now I always thought Isaiah was at the top of the high school basketball chain. Watching him last year his Sophomore season he looked like a diamond in the rough, he turned the ball over a little to much but, turnovers are common for young point guards. He would also get in trouble sometimes by forcing bad shoots. This season his game has came together as a whole. He cut way down on his turnovers, and I haven't seen him force one shoot. It's because of those improvements that I have him ranked as the #1 High School basketball player in the state. If you don't think that's enough reason to be ranked the #1 player in state what if I told you he scored 52 points in a game last Tuesday night against Puyallup high school. Yeah you read it right I said, "52pionts". It was one of the most unbelievable things I've ever seen on the basketball court. He even dunked the ball on a fast break. The boy is Filthy, If you like basketball you will love to watch him play.

The Sonics can't seem to get going.

Things got so bad during last Saturday game against the Sacramento Kings who had lost five games in a row going into Key Arena, Coach Bob Weiss benched all of his starters for a spell. "We were just flat as anything. We were not getting anything done and I pulled them out and sometimes that will work for you and sometimes it doesn't. Tonight it didn't. I was just trying to get a little spark and energy from the second group." The Sonics starters need more than a periodical benching. With the Feb 23rd trade line just around the corner. It might be time to do some Christmas shopping for a basketball player if you know what I mean.

THE TACOMA FACTS NEWSPAPER SERVICE GUIDE

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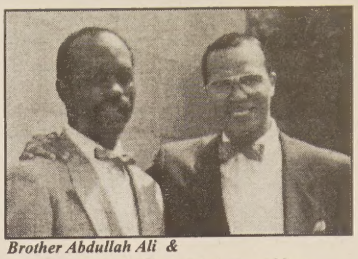
Food for Thought ..... *By Brother Abdullah Ali*



Brother Abdullah Ali &
The Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan

Our Black Youth Today

Our Black youth today is in a state of calamity! If you read the Old Testament about the youth of the adult's slaves of Egypt ruled by Pharaoh, you would read of a plan to kill off the children of the slaves. The writings of Moses and the slaves of Egypt in the Bible is a picture of the Black Family today. Before you call me a liar do your research, go and ask the scholars did slaves built the pyramids with mud and straw. Why is there an apparent conspiracy to destroy Our Black Youth today? What is so different about our Black youth today that they could become the objects of a conspiracy from the highest levels of power? Why have they become a generation marked to be destroyed? Answer to all three questions is We are the scriptures and that oppressed People of the scripture. Today the spirit to organize is in the minds of our Black youth. We've always had what they call "gangs," but not like it is today. You may say "this is terrible, this gang problem." But there is a positive side to it. What you see as terrible is the fact that our people are coming together, but the way it is with our Black Youth today is for negative purposes. That's because the vision and the idea of true freedom, justice, and equality is still buried under the false ideas and concepts of how to make and keep a slave deaf, dumb, and blind from the knowledge of self. These so-called "gangs" are signs of the oppressed masses coming together, believe it or not. They have there own symbols, hand signs…You say that's madness, well ask the Masons, the Alpha and Omega is that madness. A few of the facts that our Black Youth have brought out today is their fearlessness and willingness to die as well as to kill each other are anyone else, and they have become a force to fear today. "No mother," don't cry out to get rid of the gangs. Cry out that the gangs get the right idea, so they can become the protectors of our community and our earth, sense they are our further. The reason the police fear our Black Youth today is because the police have been the only gang in town and they want to keep their turf. The enemy has separated the youth from their parents. The enemy has taken power and authority from the elder, parents, and the teacher and given it to the children and to themselves. As a result, homes, school and society are absolutely in chaos and confusion. And they tell you on the news that they don't know what to do with those young white boys who gunned down there teachers and class mates in ten difference cities. If our Black youth was the ones doing this kind of killing, "string em up they would say." This, however is exactly what ALLAH has permitted because He, Himself, wants to take over the reigns of rulership and guidance, particularly of his people. It is not beyond you to guide these young people aright. You can do it if you follow the guidance of ALLAH. Jesus desired to guide the youth. He warned his disciples and the elder not to be an impediment to the youth who desire to come unto the guidance of ALLAH. The young people in Black America, and young people all over the world are thirsty and hungry for the voice of the messiah, who is the Guide and has the Guidance for this peculiar period in history. However, if we misguide them, then, ALLAH will be quick in taking retribution and He will punish us severely for being an impediment to our young people who seek the guidance of ALLAH that they may be the foundational stones of His New World Order and kingdom of peace and justice that will never be removed from the earth. The challenge is yours. The opportunity is yours. Please Remember, the lives of our Black Youth today are precious in the sight of ALLAH and must not be played with for personal gain. Be a good shepherd to our young people that they may walk into the New Century and millennium in a manner that is pleasing to ALLAH The most High God, As-salaam Alaikum

Resolution would support formation of private Downtown Parking Committee

A resolution on the Dec. 13 agenda would endorse the formation of a private Downtown Tacoma Parking Committee. The 12-member committee would represent the Downtown Parking Stakeholder Group in making recommendations to the City Council on parking management matters and addressing the needs of property owners, merchants, employees, residents and visitors within downtown Tacoma. The advice and recommendations from the committee would be instrumental in formulating and implementing a City parking policy.

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DIRECTOR OF FUND DEVELOPMENT

Start Date: Immediately; Open until filled.

COMPANY DESCRIPTION

The Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle (ULMS) is a community focused non-profit organization. It has a 75-year history of providing housing, employment and educational services to African Americans, people of color, and other disadvantaged people throughout Seattle and King County. ULMS is one of over 100 Urban League affiliates throughout the United States.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Under the direction of the President and CEO, manages the Office of Fund Development to achieve ULMS's mission and performs related duties as assigned. Lead person responsible for fundraising efforts from an internal/ Urban League perspective focusing on Urban League programs and the annual giving campaign. Supervises staff. Keeps up-to-date with fundraising issues and resources and identifies and solicits funding sources and potential donors.

For a full job description go to www.urbanleague.org

Groundbreaking Comic Legend Richard Pryor Dead at 65

Richard Pryor

Richard Pryor, the groundbreaking comedian whose profanely personal insights into race relations and modern life made him one of Hollywood's biggest stars, died of a heart attack Saturday. He was 65.

Pryor died shortly before 8 a.m. after being taken to a hospital from his home in the San Fernando Valley, said his business manager, Karen Finch. He had been ill for years with multiple sclerosis, a degenerative disease of the nervous system. Music producer Quincy Jones described Pryor as a true pioneer of his art.

"He was the Charlie Parker of comedy, a master of telling the truth that influenced every comedian that came after him," Jones said in a statement. "The legacy that he leaves will forever be with us."

Pryor lived dangerously close to the edge, both on stage and off.

He was regarded early in his career as one of the most foul-mouthed comics in the business, but he gained a wide following for his universal and frequently personal routines. After nearly losing his life in 1980 when he caught on fire while freebasing cocaine, he incorporated the ordeal into his later routines.

His audacious style influenced generations of stand-up artists, from Eddie Murphy and Chris Rock to Robin Williams and David Letterman, among others.

A series of hit comedies and concert films in the '70s and '80s helped make Pryor one of the highest paid stars in Hollywood, and he was one of the first black performers to have enough leverage to cut his own deals. In 1983, he signed a $40 million, five-year contract with Columbia Pictures. His films included "Stir Crazy," "Silver Streak," "Which Way Is Up?" and "Richard Pryor Live on the Sunset Strip." Throughout his career, Pryor focused on racial inequality, once joking as the host of the Academy Awards in 1977 that Harry Belafonte and Sidney Poitier were the only black members of the Academy.

"He will be missed, but will forever live in thousands and thousands of hearts and continue to impact and inspire people with his truth and his pain, which he turned into comedy brilliantly," she said. While Pryor's material sounds modest when compared with some of today's raunchier comedians, it was startling material when first introduced. He never apologized for it.

Pryor was fired by one Las Vegas hotel for "obscenities" directed at the audience. In 1970, tired of compromising his act, he quit in the middle of another Vegas stage show with the words, "What the (blank) am I doing here?" The audience was left staring at an empty stage. He didn't tone things down after he became famous. In his 1977 NBC television series "The Richard Pryor Show," he threatened to cancel his contract with the network. NBC's censors objected to a skit in which Pryor appeared naked save for a flesh-colored loincloth to suggest he was emasculated.

"I wish that every new and young comedian would understand what Richard was about and not confuse his genius with his language usage," comedian Bill Cosby said through a spokesman Saturday. In his later years, Pryor mellowed considerably, and his film roles looked more like easy paychecks than artistic endeavors. His robust work gave way to torpid efforts like "Harlem Nights," "Brewster's Millions" and "Hear No Evil, See No Evil." "I didn't think 'Brewster's Millions' was good to begin with," Pryor once said. "I'm sorry, but they offered us the money. I was a pig, I got greedy."

"I had some great things and I had some bad things. The best and the worst," he said in 1995. "In other words, I had a life."

Pryor used his films as therapy. "Jo Jo Dancer, Your Life is Calling," was an autobiographical account of a popular comedian re-examining his life while lying delirious in a hospital burn ward. Pryor directed, co-wrote, co-produced and starred in the film. "I'm glad I did 'Jo Jo,'" Pryor once said. "It helped me get rid of a lot of stuff." Pryor also had legal problems over the years. In 1974, he was sentenced to three years' probation for failing to file federal income tax returns. In 1978, he allegedly fired shots and rammed his car into a vehicle occupied by two of his wife's friends. Even in poor health, his comedy was vital. At a 1992 performance, he asked the room, "Is there a doctor in the audience?" All he got was nervous laughter. "No, I'm serious. I want to know if there's a doctor here."

A hand finally went up. "Doctor," Pryor said, "I need to know one thing. What the (blank) is MS?" Pryor was married six times. His children include sons Richard and Steven, and daughters Elizabeth, Rain and Renee. Daughter Rain became an actress. In an interview in 2005, she told the Philadelphia Inquirer that her father always "put his life right out there for you to look at. I took that approach because I saw how well audiences respond to it. I try to make you laugh at life."

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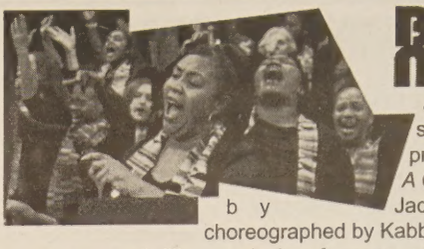

BLACK NATIVITY

Join us during the holiday season for our annual production of *Black Nativity: A Gospel Song Play*, directed by Jacqueline Moscou and choreographed by Kabby Mitchell III. *Black Nativity* encompasses thrilling musical performances led by Seattle's own "Gospel Queen," Pastor Patrinell Wright; resonant observations on our world by the Reverend Dr. Samuel B. McKinney, pastor emeritus of the Mount Zion Baptist Church; and the beautiful poetry of Langston Hughes, one of our foremost American artists and an impassioned voice for social justice. Featuring an on-stage band, electrifying modern dancers and the vocal talents of some of the region's most awe-inspiring gospel singers, *Black Nativity* is a hand-clapping, roof-raising musical celebration and holiday favorite for audiences of all ages and faiths.

In INTIMAN's continuing tradition, the opening night performance honors the spirit of legendary poet, playwright and social activist Langston Hughes by benefiting local community organizations. In 2004, INTIMAN accepted applications from non-profit organizations that serve youth and families, benefit under-served communities and work toward long-term social change. The 2004 recipients were African American Dollars for Scholars Foundation, the Mary Helen Moore Scholarship Ticket Fund, Sankofa Foundation and Treehouse Little Wishes Program.

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